

Appl. No. 09/921,856
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2003

Docket No. BOC9-2000-0082 (217)

REMARKS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 24, 2003 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due.

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0035605 to McDowell *et al.* (McDowell) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0083136 to Whitten, II (Whitten).

The Applicants have amended claim 4 to correct a minor typographical error. In particular, the word "of" was inadvertently omitted. The Applicants have amended claim 4 to read "A method of generating a list of common contacts".

In response to the rejections on the art, the Applicants have enclosed affidavits under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 supporting the removal of both McDowell and Whitten as references. Each affidavit is accompanied by a copy of the Applicants' confidential invention disclosure entitled "Connecting persons through common contacts". The confidential invention disclosure and affidavits demonstrate proof of conception for the claimed subject matter of the Applicants' invention at least as early as November 10, 2000, which predates the effective dates of both McDowell and Whitten. The Applicants further exercised due diligence from prior to the effective dates of both McDowell and Whitten until August 2, 2001, the filing date of the instant application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

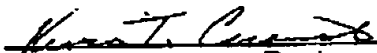
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The Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/22/03


Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577
Kevin T. Cuenot, Registration No. 46,283
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 400
Post Office Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Telephone: (561) 653-5000